



# NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
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## ARE YOU IN AGRICULTURE? MAKE SURE YOUR FARM IS COUNTED

WASHINGTON, March 17, 2003 - Will you be counted in the 2002 Census of Agriculture? That is the question Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman is asking every farmer and rancher.

“America’s farmers and ranchers have a stake in the 2002 Census of Agriculture and share the responsibility to help ensure that the results are complete and accurate,” said Veneman.

“Whether from a large or small operation, every response counts by providing accurate information about today’s food and agriculture sector.”

Farm organizations, farm suppliers, local and national policy makers and countless others use this information to make important decisions that affect farmers and ranchers. They all depend on complete and accurate census data, which are the only source of comprehensive, detailed county level facts on agriculture. Quality census data lead them to make better prepared decisions that affect farmers, ranchers and their neighbors.

If you can answer yes to any of the following questions, you should have received, completed and returned your 2002 Census of Agriculture report form.

- Did you have day-to-day control of an agricultural operation from which agricultural products were sold in 2002?
- Did you grow any crops or raise livestock for other than home use in 2002?
- Did you own or rent land and operate this land for agricultural purposes in 2002?

If you have not received a report form, please call 1-888-4AG-STAT and one will be sent to you. If you have not returned your form, please do so today!

If all of your land is rented to others or you have only a home garden, then it is not necessary to request a 2002 Census of Agriculture report form. However, if you answered yes to any of the questions above, make sure you are counted and **make it known – agriculture counts!**

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**NOTE TO EDITORS:** For background information and sample 2002 Census report forms, and for data from the last Census, visit [www.nass.usda.gov/census/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/). Public service announcements, news releases, editorials and similar materials may be found by clicking on “Help Us Promote the 2002 Census” or by calling 1-800-727-9540 or by contacting your local State Statistical Office at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/) under “State Information.”

*Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/).*